

before the terror and the myth,
before the terror of the myth.

after which you seemed always smaller
confronted by the quizzical glance,
caught by the questions of the young
or the inquiring look of the elders.

you will have to die
to benefit the legend.

Two Lynched Negroes

Two lynched Negroes
hang like mannikins,
One white man
with a mustache
points to the dangling bodies
for the benefit
of the photographer.

Translations:

Spring

by Arne Herløv Petersen (1943 -)

And there were dry eggs
that shattered in the wind.
Brown children
with small dirty hands
dig rivers in sandpits.

Arrogant birds
roar like sneezing lions
in Ørsted Park.

And three ox-eye daisies
in a bottle
bid the milkman welcome.